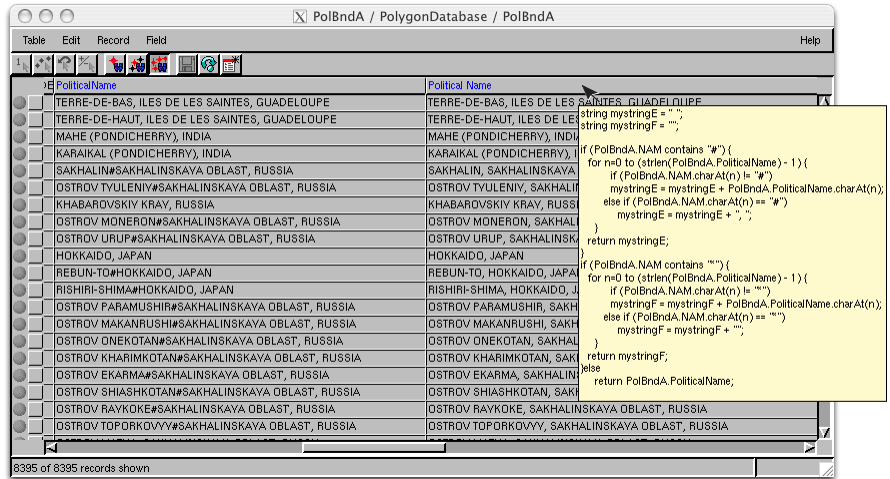


## System

# Long Field Descriptions as DataTips

When you pause the cursor over a field name (column heading) in a tabular view, you get the field description as a DataTip. As discussed on the color plate entitled *System: Long Object and Field Names and Their Descriptions*, field descriptions can be of unlimited length on multiple lines. In this sample table the script for the string expression field that removes any # or \* characters from another string expression field is used as the description. Providing this description is accomplished easily by opening the string expression from the Table Properties window, selecting the text and copying (Ctrl + C or right-click and select Copy), then pasting it into the description field. If there is no description, the field name is used as the DataTip, which can be useful for long names not fully exposed in the tabular view.



## System

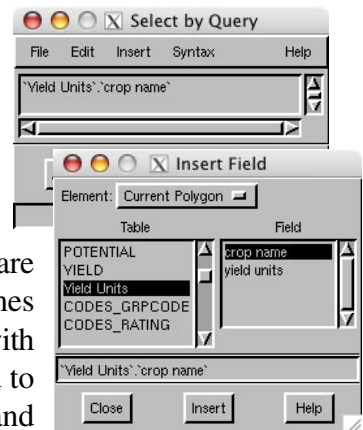
# Long Table and Field Names in Queries and SML

Long table and field names do not create a problem when used in SML and queries unless spaces or non-alphanumeric characters are included. A name that contains any of these features (>15 characters, one or more spaces, and/or non-alphanumeric characters) is generically referred to as a “long name” even if it is not more than 15 characters in length. Spaces in table and field names are problematic in scripting applications because separate components in the script are separated by spaces for parsing. Some non-alphanumeric characters, such as - and +, are operators, which will cause syntax errors or an unintended operation if they appear in the name of a table/field when the script or query is run. To handle these potential problems and still allow the use of spaces and non-alphanumeric characters in table and field names, any long table.field names that appear in a script or query must be preceded and followed by a backquote ( ` ), which is typically found as the lower case entry on the same key as the tilde (~). The table and field

**Note:** The ability to enter and view long names and descriptions is not yet available in older processes, such as Vector Filters and Vector Combinations. You can use tables and fields with long names and descriptions in these processes but you cannot create them. When selecting/styling by query, you need to use legacy names in these processes until they are updated.

names are backquoted separately so the table name does not have a pair of backquotes if only the field name contains spaces or non-alphanumeric characters and vice versa. The Select by Query window illustrated at the right shows the inserted backquotes when both table and field names contain spaces.

When you insert a table.field name by choosing Insert/Field from any selection or styling query entry window, the backquotes are automatically added if they are necessary. You can use long names without spaces or non-alphanumeric characters interchangeably with legacy names in scripts or queries. (Legacy names are needed to use objects/tables/fields with long names in version 2005:71 and earlier.) The same interchangeability applies to table and field names that contain spaces and



non-alphanumeric characters as long as the backquote is used with the long name. See the color plate entitled *System: Long Object and Field Names and Their Descriptions* for more information on this topic.